

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EUR-12 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /079 W

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O 111358Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7491

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 4448

BONN FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, US, EG

SUBJECT: HARIF AND GOLAN ARTICLES ON INTERIM
AGREEMENT

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. FOLLOWING IS
EMBASSY SUMMARY OF JULY 11 ARTICLES BY HAARETZ
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT MATI GOLAN AND MAARIV
COMMENTATOR JOSEPH HARIF ON IMPLICATIONS OF
ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT
NEGOTIATIONS. GOLAN, CONTROVERSIAL JOURNALIST
AND AUTHOR OF BOOK ON POSTWAR NEGOTIATIONS JUST
CLEARED BY CENSOR IN SANITIZED FORM, HAS WIDE-
RANGING CONTACT WITH ISRAELI POLITICIANS. HE
IS FREQUENTLY TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY THOUGH NOT
GENERALLY CONSIDERED THE MOST RELIABLE OF ISRAELI
JOURNALISTS. HARIF HAS EXCELLENT SOURCES OF INFOR-
MATION AT UPPERMOST LEVELS OF ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. IN LAST
YEAR, HARIF HAS PROVIDED CONTRIBUTIONS OF IN-DEPTH
COVERAGE OF THINKING OF TOP ISRAELI LEADERS ON
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NEGOTIATING ISSUES. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GOLAN WRITES"...JERUSALEM
IS WONDERING ABOUT RABIN'S STATUS AFTER SINAI AGREE-

MENT...IT IS BECOMING CLEAR THAT AGREEMENT WILL
RAISE LOUD OUTCRY...ONCE IT BECOMES KNOWN THAT
ISRAEL CEDED PASSES WITHOUT SATISFYING ANY OF ITS
DEMANDS...RABIN'S STATUS WILL DEPEND TO AGREAT
EXTENT ON DEFMIN PERES' MOVES...DEFMIN TOLD
ALIGNMENT FACTION THAT UNDER PROPOSED TERMS, AGREE-
MENT COULD HAVE BEEN SIGNED IN MARCH...SOME
INTERPRETED PERES' REMARKS AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF
AGREEMENT...HOWEVER, PERES HAS ACTUALLY EXPRESSED
BITTERNESS AND DISSATISFACTION WITH AGREEMENT...IT
REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW PERES VOTES...IF HE VOTES
WITH GOVERNMENT, HE CANNOT COME LATER AND SAY HE IS NOT
HAPPY ABOUT IT...THIS WAY HE WILL FURNISH RABIN
WITH NECESSARY COVER AND BACKING WHICH HE NEEDS...
IF PERES ABSOLVES HIMSELF OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR
AGREEMENT, RABIN'S SITUATION WILL BE DIFFICULT..."

3. HARIF WRITES" ...INTERIM AGREEMENT
NEGOTIATIONS CAME AT A TIME WHEN INTERNAL POLARIZATION
OF LABOR PARTY REACHED ITS PEAK...LABOR PARTY--AFTER
DECISION ON AGREEMENT IS MADE--WILL NOT BE THE SAME...
AT THIS STAGE IT SEEMS THAT ALL DEPENDS ON RABIN...ALTHOUGH
ALLON IS WILLING TO LEND HIS HAND TO EFFORTS TO PREVENT
BLOCKING NEGOTIATIONS...APPARENTLY THE TRUE DRAMA
IS NOT BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND WASHINGTON...BUT WITHIN
LABOR PARTY...IF ALLON REMAINS IN MINORITY
AMONG NEGOTIATING TRIO FAVORING AGREEMENT...HE WILL
NOT BE ABLE TO RETAIN HIS OFFICE...SAME APPLIES
TO PRIME MINSTER...IF PERES AND YAACOBI SUPPORT
AGREEMENT (AND REST OF EX-RAFI MEMBERS, INCLUDING
DAYAN, VOTE AGAINST), A SPLIT IN RAFI IS POSSIBLE...
AND EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT
EVEN THROUGH COOPERATION WITH FORCES FROM OPPOSITION
AND COALITION..."
VELIOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS, POLITICAL LEADERS, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TELAV04448
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750240-0467
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507103/baaaaevu.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971002
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, US, PFOR, PINT, (HARIF, JOSEPH)
To: STATE
BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006